

NINETY-NINTH CONGRESS

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**U.S. House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

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STATEMENT OF CONGRESSWOMAN MARY ROSE OAKAR, CHAIR  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

OF THE

HOUSE POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE

HEARING ON H.R. 1131, H.R. 989 AND H.R. 1518

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 1985

WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE WILL COME TO ORDER.

TODAY, THE SUBCOMMITTEE WILL COMMENCE HEARINGS ON THREE BILLS TO IMPROVE THE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

H.R. 1131, WHICH WAS INTRODUCED BY CONGRESSMAN JAMES OBERSTAR, WOULD CORRECT CERTAIN INEQUITIES IN THE RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION RATE FOR FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED SERVICES WHO WISH CREDIT UNDER THE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR THEIR YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE.

H.R. 989, WHICH WAS INTRODUCED BY THE RANKING MINORITY MEMBER OF THE FULL POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE, CONGRESSMAN GENE TAYLOR, WOULD EXTEND EARLY RETIREMENT ELIGIBILITY TO FLIGHT SERVICE STATION EMPLOYEES.

H.R. 1518, INTRODUCED BY CONGRESSMAN AL SWIFT, WOULD INCLUDE INSPECTORS OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE AND THE CUSTOMS SERVICE UNDER THE EARLY RETIREMENT PROVISIONS OF CURRENT LAW.

UNFORTUNATELY, BECAUSE OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S CONTINUING EFFORTS TO SEEK REDUCTIONS IN CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT BENEFITS AND INCREASES IN THE CONTRIBUTION RATES, WE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO FOCUS MOST OF OUR ATTENTION ON MAINTAINING THE EXISTING BENEFIT AND RATE STRUCTURE. THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND, HOWEVER, THAT THE CURRENT RETIREMENT SYSTEM CAN BE, AND SHOULD BE, IMPROVED.

I AM ESPECIALLY PLEASED THAT EACH OF THE BILLS BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE TODAY REPRESENTS A STEP FORWARD IN PROVIDING DESERVED BENEFITS TO FORMER MILITARY PERSONNEL AND FEDERAL WORKERS. ONE BILL RECOGNIZES AND SEEKS TO CORRECT AN INEQUITY IN THE CURRENT RETIREMENT PROGRAM THAT REQUIRES FORMER MILITARY

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PERSONNEL TO PAY MORE FOR RETIREMENT BENEFITS THAN CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES; THE OTHER TWO WOULD PROVIDE EARLY RETIREMENT ELIGIBILITY FOR EMPLOYEES IN CERTAIN OCCUPATIONS WHO EXPERIENCE UNUSUAL STRESS, EXTREME EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL DEMANDS, OR LIFE-THREATENING SITUATIONS. EACH OF THESE BILLS ARE WORTHY OF SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE.

I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO TODAY'S HEARING AND THE TESTIMONY FROM OUR FINE WITNESSES.